

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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March 25, 2019

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Congressman Greg Walden
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 1644 “Save the Internet Act”

Dear Chairman Pallone and Representative Walden:

We write to express our support for the restoration of net neutrality protections.

Following the FCC’s repeal of the Open Internet Order in 2017, each of our states enacted Executive Orders to preserve net neutrality for our citizens by requiring state contractors to guarantee free and open internet services in our states. We have attached a copy of one of our state’s executive orders for your review, illustrating steps we have taken in response to federal inaction. While our states have seen success in protecting the open internet, we support a comprehensive solution before Congress to ensure that all Americans enjoy the same freedom to exchange information without interference-for-profit.

The free and open exchange of information, secured by a free and open internet, has never been more essential to modern social, commercial and civic life. Americans across the country expect and rely on the traditional principle that internet companies will not pick and choose what content they can see. Guided by principles of internet neutrality, the information society and local economies have flourished. However, a free and open internet is not guaranteed. It is susceptible to corporate and political degradation, and its protection requires constant vigilance by consumers, market participants and governments alike.

Our citizens rely on a free and open internet to make informed personal choices about their families and to make public choices about our society. Businesses across the country, particularly in rural areas, rely on a free and open internet to enter new markets, to gain new insights, to recruit, to compete, and to grow; few changes in human communications have revolutionized commerce so quickly. America’s educational institutions rely on a free and open internet to provide world-class educational opportunities.

The loss of internet neutrality principles threatens to increase the costs of accessing and sharing information for America's citizens and businesses. We urge you to restore the essential protections afforded by net neutrality, and to safeguard the free and open internet.

Sincerely,



STEVE BULLOCK
Governor of Montana



PHIL MURPHY
Governor of New Jersey



DAVID IGE
Governor of Hawaii



PHIL SCOTT
Governor of Vermont